Montessori Schools

These types of schools are based up the teachings and principles of Dr. Maria Montessori. However caution should be exercised since not all schools carrying the **Montessori** tag are actually following Maria Montessori’s philosophy. This also means that the school might not be accredited by the **American Montessori Society** this is a case where copyrights would have come in handy, but since we, as Americans pride ourselves on being smart shoppers caution is nothing out of reach.

Montessori approach centers on allowing children to learn solo, with the teachers merely acting as guides. This means that Montessori teachers do not grade work or correct in red ink (something which I find personally to be very annoying so much so that I cringe at red pen). Though there are technically no grades (numbers, A’s, B’s, C’s, D’s or F’s) the teacher does monitor a child’s growth and improvement by evaluating work and improvement. Parents are kept updated on their child’s development through monthly or quarterly parent-teacher meetings, where the teach discusses areas of child’s interest, his or her work and insights and also provides a written assessment.

Montessori schools stress the power of the independent and the influence of imagination. This approach to early childhood education has been shown to promote the usage of multiple intelligences. Multiple intelligences are important because children learn in many ways, not just sitting at a desk memorizing facts and figures, children nay humans in general learn through action. When planting a garden for the first time a child learns through listening to their parent or grandparent or mentor, by having their hands placed in the soil and pushed ever so gently into the soft loamy soil. They learn about life from watering the plant and watching it grow. They learn about death from forgetting every now and then to water the plant and watching it turn brown and dried out.

Another strong aspect of Montessori principle is community. Children are taught respect and sharing as necessary, natural and unbreakable parts of social interaction. They are guided into approaching new ideas with respect, tolerance and understanding. Most importantly however is the fact the Montessori schools seem to endow a love of learning that never fades. Most Montessori schools focus on children in grades K – 8, but there are some which go all the way through 12th.